

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7812
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
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USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 7267

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, SGEN, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION HAS DRAFT IN HAND

REF: MOSCOW A-150

1. MAY 23 IZVESTIYA CARRIED FRONT PAGE HEAVY TYPE
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION HAS "IN
THE MAIN" APPROVED A DRAFT OF A NEW SOVIET CONSTITUTION
(PRAVDA ALSO COVERED MEETING). AT A MEETING ON MAY
23 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF L.I. BREZHNEV, THE
COMMISSION ALSO REPORTEDLY TOOK FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

-- RESOLVED TO PROPOSE TO USSR SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM
THAT IT PUBLISH DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR GENERAL DIS-
CUSSION, AND

-- FORMED AN EDITORIAL SUBCOMMISSION AND A SECRETARIAT
TO STUDY THE PUBLIC REACTION TO THE DRAFT AND THE
SUGGESTIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES WHICH PUBLIC
DISCUSSION GENERATED.

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2. COMMENT: GIVEN THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROJECT,
THE DRAFT OF THE CONSTITUTION MUST HAVE BEEN READY
BEFORE THE PUBLICATION MAY 4 OF THE NEW MEMBERS
OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION BY THE USSR SUPREME
SOVIET VEDOMOSTI (REFAIR). IT THEREFORE APPEARS
THAT THE DECISION TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF
THE COMMISSION AT THE LAST MOMENT, AS WELL AS TO

PUBLISH ITS FULL MEMBERSHIP, WAS TAKEN IN ORDER TO
BE SURE THAT THE ENTIRE TOP POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WAS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT AND THAT THE COMMISSION'S
MEMBERSHIP REFLECT RECENT HIGH LEVEL-CADRE CHANGES.
THE FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION INCLUDES NOT
ONLY THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP, BUT THE
CREAM OF THE SOVIET INTELLECTUAL, LITERARY, LEGAL
AND PROPAGANDA ESTABLISHMENT. WE WOULD NOT BE SUR-
PRISED IF THE DRAFT OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION WERE TO
BE RELEASED FOR "PUBLIC DISCUSSION" ON THE EVE
OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE, IN TIME TO BE PRAISED
BY THE SOVIET DELEGATION AS THE MOST "DEMOCRATIC"
DOCUMENT ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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